

## **Third swastika found at school**

### **Nazi symbol on sink in DMS**

By Mary McKenzie  
Clipper Reporter

A third swastika was found in a Duxbury Middle School bathroom last week, only two weeks after two other swastikas were found in both the high school and middle school last month.

In the May incidents, both schools had identified the students involved, notified parents and police were investigating. The same is true of this most recent incident, but the school district has not announced that it has found the student or students responsible for the third swastika. Duxbury's police department is investigating the incident and the school district is reviewing video footage to determine who was involved.

"Parents of middle school students may already know about this as a letter was sent out, or if you are on social media, you may have already come across this, but for parents who don't have a student in the middle school, it's on television news tonight," Superintendent Dr. Ben Tantillo said at the June 7 school committee meeting, noting the television news cameras and van parked outside Alden Elementary in the school complex.

"It needs to be known that this is not acceptable. We won't stand for this in our district, and anytime we catch somebody they have meaningful learning opportunities, and quite frankly, disciplinary consequences," the superintendent said.

The third swastika was discovered June 6, the day before the school committee meeting, when a student approached Middle School Principal Blake Dalton at the end of the school day about a swastika he saw on the side of the sink in the boys' restroom at the school. Dalton immediately made an announcement about the incident to students.

"Yesterday, for the second time in two weeks, a person in our school community, a student, made a decision to demonstrate an act of hate and intolerance," Dalton said to students at the close of the school day June 6. "For the second time, a swastika was drawn in our building. This hideous and hateful act is not only disgusting to me as your principal, but to all of us as a community of learners. Let it be absolutely clear that these types of hateful acts, known by law enforcement as 'hate crimes' will not be tolerated. This is a crime, a federal crime, that has severe consequences attached. The person responsible will be held accountable for their act."

Dalton told the students he expected more of them: "This is a school of acceptance, a school where we care for one another, take pride in our community and celebrate our differences. These acts of hate are not who we are or who we want to be. These acts of hate will never be tolerated, accepted or ignored."

Dalton asked parents and families of DMS students to talk to their children about intolerance and the message behind the swastika (a derivative of a Sanskrit word for "good fortune"), which was used as a sacred symbol in Eurasian culture for thousands of years, but forever changed in meaning when it was embraced by Austrian-born Nazi leader Adolph Hitler. He used it to identify people targeted by the Nazis for mass elimination – the Jewish people – during the Holocaust (1929-1945), spurring World War II and resulting in the murder of 6 million Jews.

"As your middle school principal, I understand that our students, your children, will make mistakes. My job is to help them learn from their mistakes and have respect for all people,"

Dalton wrote in an email to DMS families. "We have a wonderful community and school. These hateful acts do not represent us nor will we let them define who we are."

Dalton said DMS has been working with Duxbury Police, the Duxbury Interfaith Council and school administration to deal with the incident.

Around Duxbury public schools:

- The final day of school is June 21.
- Superintendent Dr. Ben Tantillo's last day at Duxbury public schools is June 30.
- Student were honored for their success in Latin at the June 6 school committee meeting.

Those students include the following:

**Introduction to Latin:** Jack Edwards, Lauren Todiscio, Danielle Koelbel, Maeve Fahey, Maya Gearin-Virga, Margaret Klein, Zoe Garrett, Madeline Koelbel, Harper Segall, Peter Stanwood, Joseph Henry, Martin O'Malley, Elizabeth Delia, Argent Lojko, Tyler Rubin, Conor Howlett, Gavin Monaghan, Theodore Strain, Robert Dimler, Theodore Massingham, Owen Amodio, Hadley Gearin-Virga

**Latin 1:**

Connor MacKinnon, Devin Rappe, Maeve Hart, William Greenwood, James Siegener, Thomas Donnelly, William Slimbaugh, Tyler Trevisan

**National Latin Exam Recipients:**

Jacob McDermott, Sara Moffitt, Grady Abban, Timothy Ayers, Peter McGill, Kevin Sullivan, Anna O'Malley, Ryan Prudente, Jillian Mc- Gee, Nathaniel Garrett, Nora Lema, Camden Record, Elise Hogan, William Nolan, Ethan Rubin, Eli Hochstein, Fiona Shortt, Piper Geisler, Margaret Strauss, Elizabeth Linsdell, Melissa Linsdell, Cammack Shepler, Margaret Norberg, Emma Bishop, Alexander Hansman, Tiernan Maimaron